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A TREATISE ON THE AMERICAN LAW OF GUARDIANSHIP. By J. G. Woerner. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company. 1897. pp. lvi, 580.

Mr. Woerner is the first writer to give the law of the guardianship of minors and lunatics an adequate treatment with reference to the status and relations of the guardian himself. His work is a condensed but complete presentation of legal authorities, written in a simple and monotonous style. The statement of the law is an able one, and the author is a master of his subject. He begins with an historical development of the theory of the guardian, tracing the influences of the Roman law and other systems of law upon the English common law, the statutes, and the practice of the Court of Chancery. The Chancellor in England was the King's representative as the guardian of subjects unable to care for themselves; through him came the jurisdiction of the Chancery Courts. In America, the State took the place of the King; and the chancery jurisdiction has been to a great extent surrendered to the Probate Courts. This has led to the creation of a class of guardians unknown to the English law, general guardians, or, as they are often called, "Probate Court guardians." They have the care of the persons of infants having no natural guardian, or administer their estates when not derived from the acting parent. This system in its details has reached a greater practical efficiency than the English system, and has had the effect of softening the more rigid rules of that system. The author collects and compares American authorities, treating of the care of minors in the first part of the book, and of the care of lunatics in the second part. The book is arranged in available form, and properly indexed. J. G. P.

THE TRUE DOCTRINE OF ULTRA VIRES IN THE LAW OF CORPORATIONS.

By Reuben A. Reese, of the Colorado Bar. Chicago: T. H. Flood & Co. 1897. pp. lxxi, 338.

This little book is the first American treatise on the doctrine of Ultra Vires. That doctrine is certainly one of the most important parts of the Law of Corporations, and the part concerning which there has perhaps been the most confusion of opinion among legal authors. Any work treating the subject clearly and consistently is justifiable, though it be an addition to the enormous mass of special treatises on narrow subjects. Mr. Reese appears to have a clear and consistent view of the doctrine; and he has quoted the authorities with great completeness. The volume is well arranged and contains an ample index. R. G.

AMERICAN NEGLIGENCE REPORTS. Edited by John M. Gardner, of the New York Bar. Vol. I. Nos. 162. New York: Remick and Schelling. 1897. pp. xl, 202.

These reports contain a summary of all current cases on negligence, the more important decisions being given in full. The arrangement of the cases is convenient for reference; and there are two complete indices, one in the ordinary form, the other classifying each case according to its subject matter. To a specialist these reports will be of importance. Negligence is a subject arbitrary in its special subdivisions; in it, more than in most branches of the law, is the general lawyer forced to consider special applications of legal principles; and in so doing he will find these reports of service to him. J. G. P.